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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m.

The Reverend Dr. Warren Blakeman, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Monroe, Louisiana, offered the following prayer:

Creator God, You have given us the precious gift of life. Between our birth and our death, we make many choices. Those who gather here make choices that affect billions beyond our shores, millions across this land, thousands in our districts and communities, and individuals within families.

We are awed when we think that these responsibilities placed upon us affect not only this time and these peoples, but also generations to come. So, humbly, we ask for Your guidance. In our choices, may truth always be combined with love, love with courage, and courage with justice and mercy. Again, we ask for Your guidance. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a concurrent reso-

lution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 326. Concurrent resolution permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol on September 23, 1998, for the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed a bill of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1397. An act to establish a commission to assist in commemoration of the centennial of powered flight and the achievements of the Wright brothers.

THE HEAVY HAND OF BIG GOVERNMENT

(Mr. NORWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, first, it was the IRS. Now, if we can believe it, it is the United States Army Corps of Engineers: You are guilty until you prove yourself innocent.

When my constituent, Pamela Ham, thought the worst was over after surviving a deadly tornado on Lake Thurman last May, the Corps reared its ugly head. Even though 4 months passed since this tornado, the Corps, as managers of this lake and the surrounding lands, still had not cleaned up the public property between the lake and Mrs. Ham's house, so Mrs. Ham cleaned the property herself, with her hands.

The Corps did not like this. They retaliated, Mr. Speaker, by revoking Mrs. Ham's dock permit. They didn't even ask for an explanation; they just lowered the boom, the big, heavy hand of big government, on my constituent.

I am tired of the Corps of Engineers bullying my constituents along the Savannah River, and I am putting them on alert. Stay tuned.

CONGRESS DOES NOT NEED FAST TRACK

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. America has a \$60 million trade deficit with Japan, \$50 billion with China, a \$24 billion deficit with Canada, \$20 plus billion with Mexico. The bleeding goes on and on, good-paying jobs lost by the thousands every week, every month.

After all this, Congress wants more fast track trade programs. Unbelievable. Congress does not need fast track; Congress needs a swift kick. What is next, our sons and daughters applying for a job in Mexico? Beam me up. Free trade, my ascot. This is a free ride for people overseas being paid for by American workers who are being retrained. Think about it.

URGING MEMBERS TO SUPPORT THE 90-10 PLAN TO PRESERVE SOCIAL SECURITY AND PROVIDE A TAX CUT

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, today Americans spend more money on taxes than on food, clothing, and shelter combined. That is an average tax burden of 38 percent. This Congress has introduced a plan to provide hard-working Americans some well-deserved relief. The 90-10 plan would set aside 90 percent of the 10-year, \$1.6 trillion budget surplus to preserve Social Security, and would use the remaining 10 percent, or \$80 billion, to cut taxes for middle-income Americans.

Under the plan, the marriage penalty and death taxes will be reduced, and tax relief will be available for education, child care, and military personnel who sell their homes. The 90/10 plan

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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